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# Peres Withholds Details in Briefing M.P.'s on Iran

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JERUSALEM, Nov. 24 — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres appeared today before Parliament's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee but declined to reveal precise details about Israel's participation in the arms-for-hostages deal with Iran, committee sources said.

Mr. Peres told the committee that he would consider briefing a more secret subcommittee on the exact elements of Israel's contacts with Teheran. But he said that because of secrecy considerations, he could not brief the full committee, which does not have a good record of confidentiality, committee sources said.

In the session today, Mr. Peres would speak only on a general level about Israeli dealings with Iran. He told reporters afterward that "the committee got a full-fledged report on the logic, principles and dates."

A senior official said Mr. Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir were convinced that, at this time, the less Israel says the better. The two leaders are eager not to do or say anything that would embarrass American officials and reveal details that the United States may still be keeping secret.

The assessment within Israeli leadership circles is that the Reagan Administration will ride out the storm and that Israel should not panic by disclosing information that could add fuel to the controversy.

Until now, neither Mr. Peres nor Mr. Shamir has confirmed any Israeli connection with the Iran affair, nor have they briefed Members of Parliament or even the full Cabinet on the matter. Although many of these details have nonetheless become known, one of the remaining mysteries of the Iran affair is who got paid for all the arms that were shipped by Israel on behalf of the United States, as well as when, where and how.

Israeli sources said that in the early

stages of the deal, in the fall of 1985, the Iranians paid money into a Swiss bank account, but exactly where the money went from there is not clear.

Manachur Ghorbanifar, an Iranian arms dealer who was the link between the Israelis and the Americans and certain elements in Teheran, and who visited Israel on numerous occasions during the last two years as part of an arms-for-hostages deal, is believed to have many of the answers to these questions, but his whereabouts is unclear, Israeli sources said.

The Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee chairman, Abba Eban, told reporters after the session today — most of the supposedly secret contents of which were quickly leaked to the press — that he was "dissatisfied that members of the committee leaked what they did, but the fact that the discussion was held at all gives me at least partial satisfaction."

Mr. Eban supported the idea that Mr. Peres might brief a smaller, more secretive subcommittee. This seemed to reflect the majority view in the committee.

Although elements of the Israeli Parliament and press are putting pressure on the Government to disclose Israel's involvement in the Iran affair, there is no real pressure from the Israeli public to do so. Moreover, the desire by Members of Parliament for information does not necessarily reflect dissatisfaction with what is reportedly the Israeli role in the affair, but rather their anger at being kept out of the picture.

There is something of a cult of intelligence within Israeli society, in which the public has a tendency to believe many of the real and fictionalized sto-

ries about the exploits of Israeli secret agents. As such, said Nahum Barnea, editor of the political weekly Koteret Rasheet, there is also a tendency not to question anything done by the country's intelligence services in the name of either helping to save Jews or fostering Israel's security.

The Americans, since Watergate, don't like to be cheated by the government," he said. "In Israel, we have not reached that point. The political system is curious about the whole affair, but give them a security argument and they will buy it. The only thing people here are worried about is whether it might somehow damage our relations with the United States."